## Legend of the Capitoline Venus.

BY MARE TWAIN.

CHAPTER L.

[Scene-An Artist's Studio in Rome]. "Oh. George, I do love you!" "Bless your dear heart, Mary, I know that -why is your father so obdurate?"

"George, he means well, but art is folly to him he only understands groceries. thinks you would starve me. "Confound his wisdom—it savors of inspirution. Why am not I a money-making, bowelless grocer, instead of a divinely-gifted

sculptor with nothing to eat?" "Do not despond, Georgy, dear-all his prejudices will fade away as soon as you shall have acquired fifty thousand dol-"Fifty thousand demons! Child, I am in

arrears for my board!" CHAPTER II.

[Scene-A Dwelling in Rome,] "My dear sir, it is useless to talk. I haven't anything against you, but I cannot let my daughter marry a hash of love, art, and starvation-I believe you have nothing else to

"Sir, I am poor, I grant you. But is fame nothing? The Hon, Bellamy Foodle, of Arkansas, says that my new statue of America is a clever piece of sculpture, and he is satisfied that my name will one day be

"Bosh! What does that Arkansas ass know about it? Fame's nothing—the market price of your marble scare-crow is the thing to look at. Took you six months to chisel it and you can't sell it for a hundred dollars. No Show me fifty thousand dollars and you can have my daughter-otherwise she marries young Simper. You have just six months to raise the money in. Good morning, sir," "Alas! Woe is me!"

CHAPTER III.

[Scene-The Studio.] "Oh, John, friend of my boyhood, I am the unhappiest of men."

"You're an ass!" "I have nothing left to love but my poor statue-and see, even she has no sympathy for me in her cold marble countenance-so beautiful and so beartless!

"You're a fool!

"Oh, fudge! Didn't you say you had six months to raise the money in?

"Don't deride my agony, John. If I had six centuries what good would it do! How could it help a poor wretch without name, capital, or friends? 'Idiot! Coward! Baby! Six months to

raise the money in-and five will do!' "Are you insane?"

"Six months—an abundance. Leave it to me. I'll raise it."
"What do you mean, John? How on earth

can you raise such a monstrous sum for me? "Will you let that be my business, and not meddle? Will you leave the thing in my hands? Will you swear to submit to whatever I do? Will you pledge me to find no fault with my actions?

"I am dizzy-bewildered-but I swear." John took up his hammer and deliberately smashed the nose of America! He made another pass and two of her fingers fell to the floor-another, and part of an ear came away-another, and a row of toes were mangled and dismembered—another, and the left leg, from the knee down, lay a fragmentary

John put on his hat and departed.

George gazed speechless upon the battered and grotesque nightmare before him for the space of thirty seconds, and then wilted to the floor and went into convulsions.

John returned presently with a carriage, got the broken-hearted artist and the brokenlegged statue aboard, and drove off, whistling low and tranquilly. He left the artist at his lodgings, and drove off and disappeared down the Via Quirinalis with the

> CHAPTER IV. [Scene-The Studio.]

"The six months will be up at 2 o'clock to-day! Oh, agony! My life is bligh ed. I would that I were dead! I had no supper yesterday; I have had no breakfast to-day. I dare not enter an eating house. And hungry?—don't mention it! My bootmaker duns me to death; my tailor duns me; my landlord haunts me. I am miserable! I haven't seen John since that awful day. She smiles on me tenderly when meet in the great thoroughfares, but her old flint of a father makes her look in the other direction in short order. Now, who is knocking at that door? Who is come to persecute me? That malignant villain the bootmaker, I'll warrant. Come in . "Ah, happiness attend your highness-

Heaven be propitious to your grace! I have brought my lord's new boots—ah, say nothing about the pay, there is no hurry, none in the world. Shall be proud if my noble lord will continue to honor me with his custom-ah, "Brought the boots himself! Don't want

his pay! Takes his leave with a bow and a scrape fit to honor majesty withal! Desires a continuance of my custom! Is the world coming to an end? Of all the come in!" "Pardon, signor, but I have brought your new suit -

"Come in."

"A thousand pardons for this intrusion, your worship! But I have prepared the beautiful suite of rooms below for you-this wretched den is but ill suited to-"Come in ! "I have called to say that your credit at

our bank, some time since unfortunately interrupted, is entirely and most satisfactorily restored, and we shall be most happy if you will draw upon us for any

"My noble boy, she is yours! "She'll be here in a moment! Take her-marry herlove her-be happy !- God bless you both! Hip, hip, hur-

"Oh, George, my own darling, we are "Oh, Mary, my own darling, we are saved -but I'll swear I don't know why !

> CHAPTER V. [Scene-A Roman Cafe.]

One of a group of American gentlemen reads and translates from the weekly edition of Il Slanguhanger di Roma as follows:—

of Il Slanguhanger di Roma as follows:—
"WONDERFUL DISCOVERY!—Some six months age
Signor John Smitthe, an American gentleman now
some years a resident of Rome, purchased for a triffe
a small piece of ground in the Campagna, just
beyond the tomb of the Scipic family, from the
owner, a bankrupt relative of the Princess Borghese,
Mr. Smitthe afterwards went to the Minister of the
Public Records, and had the piece of ground transferred to a poor American artist named George Arnold, explaining that he did it as a payment and satisfaction for pecuniary damage accidentally done by
him long since upon property belonging to Signor
Arnold, and further observed that he would make
additional satisfaction by improving the ground for
Signor Arnold at his own charge and cost. Four
weeks ago, while making some necessary excavaweeks ago, while making some necessary excava-tions upon the property, Signor Smitthe anearthed the most remarkable ancient sta-

tue that has ever been added to the oppo-lent art treasures of Rorze. It was an exquisite figure of a woman, and though sadiy stained by the soil and the mould of ages, no eye could look un-movered upon its ravishing beauty. The nose, the left leg, from the knee down, an ear, and also the toes of the right foot and two fingers of one of the hands, were gone, but otherwise the noble figure was in a remarkable state of preservation. The Govern-ment at once took military possession of the spatue, and appointed a commission of art critics, antiquiries, and cardinal princes of the Church to assess its value and determine the remuneration that must go to the and cardinal princes of the Church to asseks its value and determine the remuneration that must go to the owner of the ground in which it was found. The whole affair was kept a profound secret until last night. In the meantime the commission sat with closed doors, and deliberated. Last night they decided unanimously that the statue is a Venus, and the work of some unknown but sublimely gifted artist of the third century before Christ. They consider it the most familiess work of art the world has any knowledge of. any knowledge of.

any knowledge of.

"Al midnight they held a final conference and decided that the Venus was worth the enormous sum of ten million francs: In accordance with Roman law and Roman usage, the Government being half owner in all works of art found in the Campagna, the State has naught to do but pay five million francs for Mr. Arred and lake permanent possession of the to Mr. Arnold and take permanent possession of the beautiful statue. This morning the Venus will be removed to the Capitol, there to remain, and at noon the commission will wait upon Signer Arnold with his Holiness the Pope's order upon the Treasury for the princely sum of live million francs in gold. Charus of Voices .- "Luck! It's no name

for it ! Another Voice."- "Gentlemen, I propos that we immediately form an American joint stock company for the purchase of lands and excavation of statues here, with proper connections in Wall street to bull and bear the stock

All .- "Agreed."

CHAPTER VI. [Scene-The Roman Capitol.]

"Dearest Mary, this is the most celebrated statue in the world. This is the renowned 'Capitoline Venus' you've, heard so much about. Here she is with her little blemishes 'restored' (that is, patched) by the most noted Roman artists and the mere fact that they did the humble patching of so noble a creation will make their names illustrious while the world stands. How strange it seemsthis place! The day before I last stood here, ten happy years ago, I wasn't a millionaire—bless your soul, I hadn't a cent. And yet I had a good deal to do with making Rome mistress of this grandest work of ancient art the world contains

"The worshipped, the illustrious Capitoline Venus-and how much she is valued at? Ten

millions of francs. "Yes-now she is.

"And oh, Georgy, how divinely beautiful

she is!"
"Ah, yes—but nothing to what she was before that blessed John Smith broke her leg and battered her nose. Ingenious Smith: gifted Smith-noble Smith! Author of all our bliss! Hark! Do you know what that wheeze means? Mary, that brat has got the whooping cough. Will you never learn to take care of the children!

THE END.

The Capitoline Venus is still in the Capitol at Rome, and is still the most charming and most illustrious work of ancient art the World can beast of. But if ever it shall be your fortune to stand before it and go into the customary eestasies over it, don't permit this true and secret history of its origin to mar your bliss-and when you read about gigantic Petrified Men being dug up near Syracuse in the State of New York, keep your own counsel-and if the Barnum that buried them there offers to sell to you at an enormous sum, don't you buy. Send him to the Pope!

## The Secret of the Aurora. From the London Spectator.

Men of science have long felt that a strange secret lay hidden in the brilliant folds of the Aurora. The magic arch, with its pointed streamers, shifting silently but swiftly across the heavens, pulsating mysteriously as though illuminated by the fitfully changing glow of some concealed furnace, and rendered surpassingly beautiful by the brilliancy of its colors, had always had strange charms for men of thoughtful mind. And gradually a series of laborious researches had revealed the laws which associate this beautiful apparition with disturbances affecting the economy of our whole earth, and not ludistinetly connected with the habitudes of the solar system itself. But recently a discovery has been made which is even more remarkable than any which had before rewarded the labors of physi cists-a discovery at once instructive and perlexing, revealing a bond of union between the urora and a phenomenon hitherto thought to be quite different in character, but leaving us still to learn what the exact nature of that bond of union may be. Let us consider what had been earned respecting auroral displays and their reation to the earth's economy.

We had occasion recently to point out that a sudden disturbance in the sun in 1859 had been presently followed by intense magnetic action, the whole electric system of the earth quivering, so to speak, under the influence of the solar forces educed by the disturbance. And we mentioned that amongst the signs of this magnetic action brilliant displays of the auroral streamers had been witnessed in both hemispheres on the night following the solar disturbance. This cir-cumstance teaches us the true character of the aurora as strikingly as any which astronomers and physicists had patiently been gathering to-gether during the past half-century. We learn at once that a relation subsists between the aurora, terrestrial magnetism, and the central lumipary of our scheme.

And even if we were to pause here, we should have learned enough to indicate the significance of the aurora. Our earth, we may be sure, is not the only recipient of that mystic influence which rouses into activity the phenomena we magnetic. Over the whole realm which it rules the central orb sends forth the strange electric impulses. When our skies are illuminated by the magic streamers, we may be sure that those of Venus and of Mars. of Jupiter and of Satura nay, even the skies of those unseen orbs which travel far out in space beyond the paths of Uranus and Neptune, are lit up with auroral displays. When once it has been shown that we owe our auroras to solar action, we recognize the cosmical character of the display, and that, in a sense, the terrestrial magnetism on which it depends is a bond of affinity between our earth and its sister orbs.

But while we were thus taught the true significance of the aurora, we were left in doubt a to the way in which the solar action aroused the electric himinosity in the upper regions of our air. We could not even tell at what elevation the light was suspended above our earth. most eminent physicists differed in their views as to the possibility of learning where the magic streamers really wave, when we see them most distinctly. While Arago had held that to at tempt to measure the height of the aurora was as futile as to attempt to measure the height of a rainbow, Sir John Herschel considered that precisely the same laws of measurement might e applied to the aurora as to any object raised

high above the earth. One point, however, was well determined. The auroral lights are undoubtedly to be ascribed to electric action taking place at a very considerable height, where the air is very rare indeed. It became, therefore, a question whether anything could be learned, by analyzing the auroral light, as to the condition of that particular part of our attractions. ticular part of our atmosphere in which the

electric action takes place. Spectroscopic analysis, that strange and pow-erful mode of research which has revealed so many unlooked-for facts, was accordingly applied to the light of a brilliant aurora. The result was rather surprising. Instead of a rainbow-colored streak of light, such as would have appeared if the aurora were due to the exist-ence of particles excited to luminosity by electric action, a single hue of colored light appeared. This indicated that the light is due to

the incandescence of some gas through which the electric discharges in upper air take place. But this was not the circumstance which at-tracted surprise. Rather, this was to have been looked for. It was the position of the line which astonished our physicists. If the gas with, the bright line would have occupied the position proper to that gas, and would at once have indicated its nature. But there is no known element whose spectrum has a bright line where this one appeared. The observation has been repeated over and over again, by Augstrom, by Otto Strave, and recently by Mr. Plummer, always with the same result; we cannot tell what the substance may be to whose incandescence or luminosity the aurora owes its

But now a most remarkable discovery has been effected. Angstrom has found that the mysterious line of the auroral spectrum exists in the spectrum of another object which had been thought to be wholly different in character. Ever since its discovery by Cassini, the zodiacal light has been an object of interest to astronomers. Gradually a theory had been formed respecting it which had been sanctioned by the authority of such men as Humboldt and Sir John Herschel. It was held that this appear-ance is due to the light reflected from a multitude of minute cosmical bodles travelling around the sun within the orbit of our earth.

This theory had never been tested by spectroscopic analysis. Indeed, the zodiacal light shines so faintly that it was hardly hoped that its spectrum could be rendered visible. But it was confidently anticipated that, if the zodiacal light ever were thus anylyzed, its spectrum would be that which the theory required—that is, a very faint production of the common solar

spectrum. Now, at length, we hear from Angstrom that the spectrum of the zodiacal light has been ob-served, and instead of being, as had been expected, a faint rainbow-colored streak, it preents but a single line. That line is the same that we see in the spectrum of the aurora! In other words, the light of the zodlacal gleam and that of the auroral streamers are due to the same sort of electric discharge taking place in the same medium.

Without pretending to further interpret this startling result, we may indicate the promise it affords of explaining a number of phenomena which have long seemed most perplexing. When once we recognize the fact that electric action is effective in producing any of the celestial lights, we have a resource available to remove many difficulties. Astronomers were asking how comets, for example, could exhibit the spectrum of the incandescent vapor of carbon-that is, a spectrum indicative of the most intense heat, when, as in the case of Winnecke's comet (whose spectrum was of this nature). they were farther from the sun than the earth is. The action of the sun in ex-citing electrical discharges would be quite sufficient to account for this and similar phenomena. Again, it has been long recognized that the peculiarities of comets' tails seem only explicable as due to electrical action; but astronomers were unwilling to adopt such a theory without some positive evidence in its favor. We now have such evidence; and it is most probable that the first long-tailed comet which is submitted to spectroscopic analysis will establish the view which Euler put forth more than a century ago, that comeis' tails have something in common with the aurora and the zodiacal light. It would indeed be strange if three of the most mysterious phenomena with which men of science are acquainted should find their explanation simultaneous v.

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